

INTRODUCTION

MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The mission of the Diocese of Raleigh is to engage our school/center communities in creating a quality education within a Catholic environment that fosters the current and future development of the whole child.

PHILOSOPHY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATORS

We believe quality Catholic education calls us to integrate Gospel teachings and values with real life.

We believe all secular subjects need to be taught in the light of these values.

We recognize and accept that parents are the primary educators of their children therefore we work closely with them in both the school and parish context.

We believe students of all faiths, ethnic origins, and economic levels contribute to the world community and thus we welcome these students and strive to create an environment, which reflects the dignity of each person.

We believe the faith shared with parents, teachers, and students is nourished by prayer and worship within the total life of the school and parish community.

We believe students reach their individual potential by thinking clearly, forming strong convictions, and acting in ways consonant with their beliefs for the betterment of their own lives, their Church and society as a whole.

(Diocese of Raleigh Administrator Handbook)

The *Curriculum Guide* provides the framework to assist teachers, in all Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Raleigh, in identifying and implementing appropriate instructional methodology in grades K through 8. It is aligned to the competencies of the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* as well as National Standards. Key to our curriculum is Values and Attitudes that focus on issues that will enable students to develop a critical conscience in each content area. They are not necessarily quantifiable but rather are reflected in a student's respect of the content area.

Religion guidelines are established by the Diocesan Department of Faith Development and outlined in the 1999 *Handbook for Parish Directors of Faith Development*.

The web curriculum is an overview of the *Curriculum Guide* and intended only as a reference for parents. The overview lists the objectives for each grade and content area. A comprehensive curriculum is available upon request from the school principal or classroom teacher. The three components of the web curriculum are:

Values and Attitudes described above

Strands identify the components, or areas of specific focus in each curriculum area. Each strand is aligned to competencies identified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study or National Standards for that content area.

Objectives are the concepts that a student should know and be able to apply.